

by the secretary of Interior. The management plan will describe comprehensive policies, goals, strategies, and recommendations for telling the story of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area and encouraging long-term resource protection, enhancement, interpretation, funding, management, and development of the Area. The authorization is limited to \$15 million total. The legislation also requires a non-federal cost share match for each dollar contributed by the federal government. The Partnership must also submit an annual report to the secretary for each fiscal year for which the local coordinating entity receives federal funds under this subtitle, which specifies the performance goals and accomplishments of the local coordinating entity and other related information, including uses of funds and amounts of non-federal funds leveraged in the effort. The Partnership is authorized, for the purposes of preparing and implementing the approved management plan for the National Heritage Area, to use federal funds made available under the legislation to make grants to political jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, and other parties within the National Heritage Area; enter into cooperative agreements with or provide technical assistance to political jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, federal agencies, and other interested parties; hire and compensate staff, and other purposes related to the national heritage area.

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership is the designated local coordinating entity for this national heritage area. The Partnership is comprised of over 150 partners, including every elected body within the four-state region, including Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, the convention and visitor associations of each of the included 15 counties, and the directors of tourism from each of the four states.

The legislation does not permit the Partnership to use any federal funds provided under the Act to acquire any interest in real property. In addition, Section 408 of the Act sets forth numerous safeguards for private property and makes unmistakably clear that nothing in the Act abridges the rights of any property owner (whether public or private), including the right to refrain from participating in any plan, project, program, or activity conducted within the National Heritage Area.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I was absent on Tuesday, April 22, and much of Wednesday, April 23rd for personal reasons. Had I been present Tuesday for votes, I would have voted "yes" on each of the three votes taken: H.R. 5151, H.R. 831, and H. Res. 981. Had I been present Wednesday for votes, I would have voted "no" on the motion to adjourn and "yes" on both H.R. 5613 and H. Con. Res. 322. I would also have voted "yes" on ordering the previous question and passage of the rule, H. Res. 1125, and "yes" on all three amendments to H.R. 5819.

93RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 93rd anniversary of the start of the Armenian genocide, which was the first genocide of the 20th century and sadly, the template for a cycle of genocide that continues to this very day.

It is, by any reasonable standard, established history that between 1915 and 1923 the Ottoman Empire systematically killed an estimated 1.5 million Armenians and drove hundreds of thousands of others into exile from their ancestral homeland. The record of this atrocity is well documented in the United States Archives and has been universally accepted in the International Association of Genocide Scholars and the broader historical and academic communities.

However, there is still debate around the world, including here in our Nation, on whether this incident actually qualifies as genocide. On April 26, 1915, the New York Times reported on the first reported purges of Armenians in Ottoman Turkey. Later in 1915, the Times ran a front page article about a report from the Committee on Armenian Atrocities discussing exactly what was happening to Armenians in Turkey. "The report tells of children under 15 years of age thrown into the Euphrates to be drowned; of women forced to desert infants in their arms and to leave them by the roadside to die; of young women and girls appropriated by the Turks, thrown into harems, attacked or else sold to the highest bidder, and of men murdered and tortured."

One can debate specific historical incidents, but growing up in Fresno, California, the land of William Saroyan, I heard stories shared by grandparents from the Kezerian, Koligian and Abramian families about being forced to leave their homes, the stories of the long marches, and the random murders. Clearly, they believed there was a systematic approach to eliminate the Armenian communities in places that had been their homes and farms for centuries. My Armenian friends believe this systematic approach was among the first genocides of the 20th century, and so do I.

Around the world, in the single, longest lasting and far-reaching campaign of genocide denial, Turkey seeks to block recognition of this travesty. It's against the law to even mention the Armenian genocide in Turkey. The Armenian Genocide involved the issue of man's injustice to mankind, and it continued to occur throughout the 20th century in the Holocaust, Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and now in Darfur. As leaders, we must confront this and not allow Turkey to continue to stand alone and ask us to believe that the Armenian genocide was not genocide.

In standing up to this policy of denial, we, of course, honor the martyrs of the genocide and we encourage our Turkish allies and friends to come to terms with their past. And, in a very powerful and significant way, we reinforce our own vital role, as Americans, in leading the international community toward unconditional opposition to all instances of genocide.

Last October, the House Foreign Affairs Committee passed H. Res. 106, a resolution

to recognize the Armenian genocide in the United States. Unfortunately, this bill has yet to come before the full House for a vote. Supporters of this resolution are constantly told that now isn't the time to recognize the genocide, that scholars, not Congress, should determine if this event was genocide, or that passage of this resolution will hurt our relationship with Turkey. I could not disagree more with these statements.

First, there is never a "right time" to recognize genocide. Ninety-three years have passed since the start events occurred, and we cannot wait around for a convenient moment to recognize this truly catastrophic historical event. Secondly, the scholars have spoken and the historical record is clear and thoroughly documented. And finally, we have seen over and over again that Turkey's warning of disastrous consequences are dramatically overstated. In fact, in nearly every instance, Turkey's bilateral trade has gone up with each of the countries that have recognized the Armenian genocide—including Canada, Italy, France, Russia, and Belgium.

Genocide is not something that can simply be swept under the rug and forgotten. We need leaders around the world to not only recognize it, but to condemn it so the world can truly say, "Never Again." The United States cannot continue its policy of denial regarding the Armenian genocide, and I encourage passage of H. Res. 106 to recognize the Armenian genocide in our Nation.

93RD ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the 93rd Anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

Since being elected to the U.S. Congress, I have come to the floor of the House every year to solemnly remember the atrocities that began on April 24, 1915—when the Ottoman government ordered the deportation of 2.5 million Armenians and oversaw the murder 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children.

Today, as I stand for the 10th time in recognition of the Armenian genocide, I do so with one major distinction from years past. This year is different because the House Foreign Affairs Committee has formally recognized the Armenian genocide. Last October, under the leadership of the late Chairman Tom Lantos, the Committee passed House Resolution 106.

As a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I was proud to have been a part of this vote. And, as a strong supporter of the Armenian community, I will be proud when the full House of Representatives considers H. Res. 106.

In 2003, during my first visit to Armenia, I planted a tree at the genocide memorial and paid homage to those who perished and suffered. It was a somber day, just like today's anniversary of the Armenian genocide. We not only participate in these events to remember the past, but also so we never forget.

We must never forget the horrific events that took place 93 years ago. We must never

forget those who were wrongly imprisoned, those who suffered and died, or those who lost their families and loved ones. And, most importantly, we must never forget that we must never let such atrocities occur again.

Madam Speaker, today, as we commemorate the 93rd Anniversary of the Armenian genocide, I urge the House to prevent history from repeating itself by finally recognizing the past.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, as a proud co-sponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 322, which recently passed the House of Representatives, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the modern State of Israel, I wish to take an opportunity to reflect on this truly monumental event. Since the time of its creation 60 years ago, Israel has served as an example of democracy and equal rights for her neighbors. Israel has also proved to be steadfast ally to the United States in a variety of ways, particularly within our country's diplomatic efforts in the Middle East.

Since its founding in 1948, the modern State of Israel has served as a democratic anchor in the Middle East. Like the United States, the Israeli Declaration of Independence protects freedom of speech, freedom of religion, a free press, free elections, and many other tenets of a free society. Israel established a democracy in the midst of a politically tumultuous region and by guaranteeing the basic rights of her citizens, sets herself apart from her authoritarian neighbors.

Israel prides herself on women's rights and equal pay for women in the workforce. The first female Prime Minister, Golda Meir, was elected in 1969, just 21 years after the formation of modern Israel. Women now serve as the foreign minister, speaker of the Knesset, and chief justice of the Israeli Supreme Court. Furthermore, Israel has recognized the necessity of providing equal rights regardless of gender or race and deserves to be commended.

Not only is Israel an example for her neighbors as a thriving democracy, where citizens' rights are protected through the rule of law, she has also been an avid supporter in the global war on terror. The U.S. and Israel are continually working together to develop sophisticated military technology and improve Israel's defense systems and soldier protection. In the interest of global freedom I hope, and am confident that, this friendship will continue in the future.

It is with great joy that I extend my best wishes for the 60th anniversary of the modern State of Israel and wish them a prosperous future.

PROTECTING THE MEDICAID SAFETY NET ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, today, the House is considering H.R. 5613, Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008. This legislation would place a moratorium on certain rules promulgated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS. While I applaud CMS for looking for ways to reduce the burden on taxpayers and to root out fraud which is regrettably rampant in the Medicaid program, some of these proposed rules simply go too far. They shift too great a cost to the States and leave many vulnerable Americans more vulnerable still. And so I will support this temporary stay to give the administration time to consider ways to meet its goals in a less draconian manner.

To be sure, the Medicaid program has been abused. For instance, a CMS Inspector General report found \$3.8 million in undocumented services in the targeted case management program, one which is impacted by these very rules. And CMS's regulations would certainly combat instances of waste and fraud. However, implementing a 1-year moratorium will give CMS an opportunity to review the regulations and give States and local providers an opportunity to prepare for pending implementation, each knowing that real reform is on the horizon. While I believe it is important to rein in entitlement spending, these rules, as currently formulated and immediately imposed, would jeopardize needed care for some of the most vulnerable populations of Americans.

That being said, I am pleased that to address abuses of the Medicaid program, H.R. 5613 provides for anti-fraud enforcement activity in the interim. The bill also provides for the Department of Health and Human Services to hire an independent contractor to produce a report by March 1, 2009, on the proposed regulations and their impact on States. Moreover, all of these costs, as well as the foregone savings resulting from this moratorium are fully offset, meaning H.R. 5613 will not increase the national debt.

The Medicaid program has helped millions of America's neediest individuals, including seniors, foster kids and the disabled, gain access to quality care, and while there have indeed been instances of misallocated funds, H.R. 5613 finds balance between regulatory restraint and financial flexibility, and it maintains a strong partnership with the States.

COMMENDING CONSTANTINO BRUMIDI

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great artist whose love of liberty inspired him to adorn the United States Capitol with beautiful frescoes. That man, of course, is Constantino Brumidi.

Brumidi's work adorns one House committee room and five Senate committee rooms

in the Capitol. His work also decorates the Senate Reception room, the Office of the Vice President and most notably, the President's room which for many represents Brumidi's supreme effort.

Constantino Brumidi emigrated to the United States in 1849 and took up residence in New York City where he plied his trade as a portrait painter. That was soon followed by more important commissions in St. Stephen's Church. Those works include a fresco of the Crucifixion as well as works depicting the Martyrdom of St. Stephen and the Assumption of St. Mary. But it was on a return trip from Mexico that Brumidi stopped in Washington, DC and toured the Capitol building. He found in it a canvass that inspired him for the remainder of his life. Brumidi suggested to Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs that the walls of the Capitol be decorated and Meigs agreed giving Brumidi the commission as well as making him a captain in the cavalry.

Brumidi's first work was in the meeting room of the House Agriculture Committee. He received \$8 a day, but was soon given a raise to \$10 a day by then Secretary of War Jefferson Davis since his work was receiving such favorable mention. Along with the raise came further commissions in the Capitol which include the Apotheosis of George Washington in the dome as well as other allegories and scenes from American history.

Brumidi died in 1880 but we have the benefit of seeing his work everyday we are here. And Americans who travel to our Nation's Capitol can also enjoy Brumidi's work, yet few know him or his story. That's why I believe all members should support two important bills pending before the House that will honor Constantino Brumidi and his work here in the Capitol. The first is H.R. 1609 introduced by Representative BILL PASCRELL. H.R. 1609 would posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Constantino Brumidi and authorize the striking of duplicate medals for sale to the public. The second is H.R. 1313, introduced by Representative GUS BILIRAKIS to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to obtain a statue of Constantino Brumidi for display in the Capitol Visitors Center. Both of these bills will honor the memory of a great artist and so I ask all my colleagues to join me in supporting them both.

LIVINGSTON HIGH SCHOOL 100-YEAR CELEBRATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the city of Livingston and the Livingston Independent School District, as they celebrate the 100-year anniversary of Livingston High School. Since graduating its first class of three students in 1908, Livingston High School has been a place devoted to the single purpose of educating young people.

Since the city was established in the 1840s, education of youths has been of great public importance. In fact, the earliest recorded free school system in Livingston was established in 1849 and funded by the Trinity Masonic Lodge No. 14. Classes were held on the first floor of